

paid work to boot—is as bad for Jill as it is for Jack, and it makes life dull and dreary. Every moral instinct is shut out by labor and poverty. Sometimes food, insufficient in quantity and of poor quality, is all that can be gotten, and sometimes, too, the poison of fatigue affects the health.

Let this go for months or years—is it not natural that a girl should become discouraged? When discouragement is kept up too long and the normal instincts of youth are crushed continually, is there not danger that the discouragement shall become despair and, once in the state of despair, is a glittering temptation, perhaps a devil disguised as an angel of light, easier or harder to meet?

Leave the actual figures out of consideration for a moment; is there not danger in anything that keeps working people—men or women—constantly distressed?

Take the case of a girl who can find no normal outlet for that within her which cries out for expression, who wants all of the normal things a young girl OUGHT to want, and yet cannot get them. Is it not a fact that an abnormal means of expression, first regarded with shrinking, may in time become less repulsive; and, in the end, through mere external pressure, be accepted?

One must distinguish between direct and indirect causes, or between causes which are real and conditions which make it possible for ill causes to succeed. Low wages is not THE CAUSE in this instance. Yet sometimes low wages are coincident with conditions which give bad causes a chance to do evil work.

Every man and woman knows that, so to speak, there are impulses in him, or her, some of which tend to lift-up, some to drag down.

Now the difference between \$5 weekly and \$50 weekly does not make these impulses, but certain of them get a chance on the \$50 weekly basis, and certain others get a chance, too, on the \$5 basis. What

we want to do is to create conditions, partly by wages and partly by other things, to strengthen the environments which let the forces which lift up have play and to destroy the condition under which the forces which drag down have play.

It does not alter the facts to say that many girls under hard conditions resist the downward drag. That does the girl honor because it shows her character is stronger than the drag. But the drag is there just the same, and it may injure or destroy a weaker sister by providing the conditions for her fall. What we want to do is take away the drag.

Partly this may be accomplished by giving our boys and girls something to do. Too many go out into life and find it a blind alley.

A young woman came to me for employment a few days ago. I asked her what she could do, and she answered "nothing." There was a place where the downward drag had a good chance. Neither her brains nor her hands ever had been taught to do practical work.

Training in some vocational work has a distinct moral and mental value. It takes away the conditions under which the downward drag gets its best hold. There are many fathers and mothers whose lives would be happier if their children would find education in some definite work in life, so they could not only assist their parents, but could keep their own bodies and souls together in decency.

Many a mother who knows the path of danger she herself trod would like to have the path made safer for her boys and girls. Employers, here and there, are recognizing the principle of a minimum wage for women and men. They gain thereby a selected force, which makes their business highly profitable; yet, were the principle of the minimum wage to be extended to universal practical application, how many of our boys and girls are trained in any class of work